

them? 1. What is time to eternity? 2. What is earth to heaven? 3. What is this life to the life to come? 4. What is the outward man to the inner man?

As I was writing the foregoing questions my mail arrived. It brought me a number of circulars claiming to be a "minute of the proceeding of the Ohio State Conference." I read the "minute" and will now say my speech concerning it. In the first place allow me to say "amen" to what brother Jacob C. Cassel says in regard to it in the EVANGELIST of August 2.

In my opinion the conference of Ohio, as well as the conference of Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia, have transcended their authority, have virtually laid aside the "gospel alone" doctrine, and the church government as set forth by our creed. Whenever the decisions of any conference fail to carry out the "Declaration of Principles," they are null and void. The declaration of principles must first be repealed or amended. I protest against saying that "the gospel should be the basis of government," or "the word of the Lord be its (the church) chief guide. These expressions signify that we may have something more as government and guide.

The "minute" does not state in what the candidates for ordination shall be examined, it does not hold that committee of three (elders I presume) to anything.

Next note the "Supervising Board," of all the churches and members within the state (or states). Almost as sweeping as the mandatory edict of 1882 of the German Baptist church. There is a principle in our system of church government that we dare not stretch too far. The idea of equal rights is easily and often abused and converted into a means of friction. Liberty, fraternity and equality are words which both in church and state have often become signals for lawless invasions of the rights of others. "Stand free in the liberty wherewith Christ has made you free is a scriptural injunction that is intended for all those whose rights have been invaded, be they elders, ministers or laymembers. It is a fact potent in the mind of every one, that is at all acquainted with the Pope's system of ecclesiastical tyranny that it began in a presumptive, usurped domination of the priesthood. A bad, mischievous and destructive weed, planted in the garden of the Lord. Fostered, nourished and cherished in its growth until genuine Gospel Christianity is almost wholly destroyed. Therefore it should not be a matter of surprise, or of regret that some of us can not and will not indorse the indiscreet move that some of our state conferences have made, infringing upon the rights and liberties of the churches permitting the encroachment of official authority.

While we admit that an official position implies existing authority: otherwise it would be a solecism. Paul says, "Remember them that have the rule over you." "Obey them that have the rule over you." Submit yourselves, for they watch for your souls, etc. Heb. 13: 7, 17. These injunctions, as well as others not mentioned enjoin obedience and submission to Christian church officials, but they do not authorize, or invest church officials, or conventions with legislative power or authority, but simply declarative and executive. Brethren, let us hold our declarations of principles, and our motto inviolate.

West Independence, Ohio.

## Home Circle

### The Little Armchair

Nobody sits in the little armchair;  
It stands in a corner dim;  
But a white-haired mother gazing there,  
And yearningly thinking of him,  
Sees thru the dusk of the long ago  
The bloom of her boy's sweet face,  
As he rocks so merrily to and fro,  
With a laugh that cheers the place.

Sometimes he holds a book in his hand,  
Sometimes a pencil and slate,  
And the lesson is hard to understand,  
And the figures hard to mate;  
But she sees the nod of his father's head,  
So proud of the little son,  
And she hears the word so often said,  
"No fear for our little one."

They were wonderful days, the dear sweet days,  
When a child with sunny hair  
Was here to scold, to kiss and to praise,  
At her knee in the little chair.  
She lost him back in the busy years  
When the great world caught the man,  
And he strode away past hopes and fears,  
To his place in the battle's van.

But now and then in a wistful dream,  
Like a picture out of date,  
She sees a head with a golden gleam  
Bent o'er a pencil and slate;  
And she lives again the happy day,  
The day of her young life's spring,  
When the small armchair stood just in the way,  
The center of everything.

—Washington Star.

### A Perfect Little Home

Christian Work.

Among the writings of that rare woman and gifted writer, Helen Hunt Jackson, there is a picture of a home as it ought to be, drawn in such fair and graceful lines that it deserves to be hung up in every family gallery, where all may see, heed and learn its lesson. Here is the picture:

"The most perfect little home I ever saw was in a little house into the sweet incense of whose fires went no costly things. A thousand dollars served as a year's living for father, mother and three children. But the mother was the creator of a home; her relations with the children were the most beautiful I have ever seen; every inmate of the house involuntarily looked into her face for the key-note of the day, and it always rang clear. From the rosebud or clover-leaf

which in spite of her hard housework she always found time to put beside our plates at breakfast, down to the story she had on hand to read in the evening, there was no intermission of her influence. She has always been, and always will be, my ideal of a mother, wife and home-maker. If to her quick brain, loving heart and exquisite face had been added the appliances of wealth and enlargements of wide culture, hers would have been absolutely the ideal home. As it was, it was the best I have ever seen."

### Three Beers Per Day

Christian Advocate.

The Rev. A. J. Kerr, pastor of the Broome Street Tabernacle, in this city, has preached a series of special sermons on consecutive Sunday evenings, in promotion of temperance. In connection with it he has distributed circulars in English and Italian very widely thru the Fourteenth Ward. An almost incredible statement is the basis of the circular:

MEN OF THE FOURTEENTH WARD, LOOK AT THIS. THREE BEERS A DAY FOR ONE YEAR WOULD BRING INTO YOUR HOME

1 Barrel of Flour,  
50 Pounds of sugar,  
20 Pounds of cornstarch,  
10 Pounds of macaroni,  
10 Quarts of beans,  
4 Twelve-pound hams,  
1 Bushel sweet potatoes,  
3 Bushels Irish potatoes,  
10 Pounds of coffee,  
10 Pounds of raisins,  
10 Pounds of rice,  
20 Pounds of crackers,  
100 Bars of soap,  
3 Twelve-pound turkeys,  
5 Quarts of cranberries,  
10 Bunches of celery,  
10 Pounds of prunes,  
4 Dozen oranges,  
25 Good beefsteaks.

But this is not all; there would be in one pocket of the workingman's trousers a five-dollar bill marked "A new dress for mother," and in another pocket a ten-dollar bill marked "To buy shoes for the children." We could hardly believe the statement, and submitted it to an expert in these particulars, who made the calculation and found that it was within bounds.

Mr. Kerr is so confident that it cannot be disputed, that he asks every man to show it to his grocer.

With this he contrasts the Brewers' Convention in Arion Hall, in this city, Dec. 7, 1898. Of that "The New York World" said, "It is the first time in the history of this or any other city when so many millionaires have gathered in one hall at the same time." "The American Bottler" said, "Five hundred million dollars were represented." It was a convention of American brewers. The Fourteenth Ward contains one hundred and forty-two saloons, and has a population of